



**THE SENATE**  
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**McManus, Hansen work with colleagues, leadership  
to secure funds for local prison**

*Baldwin facility not among governor's suggested 2005 cuts*

**LANSING** – The Michigan Youth Corrections Facility in Baldwin will be spared from the 2005 budget axe following weeks of meetings and discussions by Sen. Michelle McManus and Rep. Goeff Hansen with the administration and Senate and House leaders.

The House Appropriations Committee today approved Gov. Jennifer Granholm's second attempt to balance the 2005 state budget by cutting about \$300 million, but funding MYCF was not included in those reductions. Last month, Granholm's executive order to balance the budget terminated the state's \$6 million lease with The GEO Group, owner and operator of MYCF.

"We've won the battle for this year," said Hansen, R-Hart. "Maintaining the youth correctional facility has been on the front burner since the governor proposed cutting those funds last month. I've been meeting with the Department of Corrections and working diligently with the corrections committee chairs in the House and Senate to find funding in this fiscal year. With that accomplished, now we will get to work to find money for the long term. The facility is just too important to the local economy and people's lives for it not to be a top priority."

The state contracts with the private facility north of Baldwin in Lake County to house, educate and rehabilitate male offenders 19 years old and younger. Along with being a major job provider in the region, The Geo Group Inc. was the largest source of tax revenue to Lake County in 2004 at almost \$1 million.

"For Lake County, the Governor's 'jobs today, jobs tomorrow' was turning into 'jobs today, gone tomorrow' with the proposed closing of the Michigan Youth Correctional Facility," McManus said. "That is why it is vital that we continue to work to keep this facility open and preserve these jobs for Lake County."

The Michigan Department of Corrections had proposed reducing its budget by canceling its contract with The Geo Group as of June 1. The contract is set to expire in August 2029.

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